DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to amendment filed on August 28, 2007. Claims 29-48 are

pending. Claims 1-28 were canceled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2.   Claims 29-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Excel

(Microsoft® Excel 2000, Copyright (c) 1985-1999 Microsoft Corp.)

Claim 29: Excel discloses a grid canvas, comprising

  a. a canvas (Fig. 2: white surface area);

  b. a gridline on the canvas (Fig. 2: any of the plurality of light gray lines), wherein

      the gridline is one of a plurality of components (Fig. 2: gray A-H and 1-25 tabs)

      on the canvas;

  c. an element on the canvas (Fig. 2: cell D10, "2+2"), wherein the element is one of

      the plurality of components on the canvas; and

  d. a property of the gridline, wherein the property is a relationship of the gridline to

      the element on the canvas, and the relationship is maintained between the

gridline and the element (Fig. 2, 3: when cell D10 is expanded, the gridline is moved accordingly.)

Claim 30: Excel discloses the grid canvas according to claim 29, wherein the gridline is defined by at least one of: a row; a column; or at least one sow and at least one column (Fig. 2.)

Claim 31: Excel discloses the grid canvas according to claim 30, wherein the row or the column are, respectively, a virtual row or virtual column (Fig. 2.)

Claim 32: Excel discloses the grid canvas according to claim 29, further comprising a gridline bounding box (Fig. 2: outer border along the outside the A-H and 1-25 tabs) that includes the element.

Claim 33: Excel discloses the grid canvas according to claim 32, wherein the gridline bounding box comprises a plurality of rows (Fig. 2: 26 rows) and columns (Fig. 2: 9 rows) that contain the element.

Claim 34: Excel discloses the grid canvas according to claim 32, further comprising margin settings within the gridline bounding box for providing desired offsets to the element (Fig. 4.)

Claim 35: <u>Excel</u> discloses the grid canvas according to claim 29, wherein a gridline

defines a border of the canvas (Fig. 2.)

Claim 36: <u>Excel</u> discloses the grid canvas according to claim 29, wherein the

relationship of the gridline to the element on the canvas is defined as an explicit value

(Fig. 4: "Width: 10.29 (77 pixels)".)

Claim 37: <u>Excel</u> discloses the grid canvas according to claim 29, wherein the

relationship of the gridline to the element on the canvas is defined as an auto value (the

width of cells (elements) are an auto default of 64 pixels wide; Fig. 2.)

Claim 38: <u>Excel</u> discloses a method for creating a grid canvas, comprising

    a. identifying a canvas (Fig. 2: white surface area. Identification (by Excel) is

       inherent in order to display the program on the display as shown);

    b. identifying a gridline (Fig. 2: any of the plurality of light gray lines) on the canvas,

       wherein the gridline is one of a plurality of components (Fig. 2: gray A-H and 1-25

       tabs) on the canvas;

    c. identifying an element (Fig. 2: cell D10, "2+2") on the canvas, wherein the

       element is one of the plurality of components on the canvas;

    d. identifying a relationship (Fig. 2: position of the gridline to the boundary of the

       element) of the gridline to the element on the canvas;

   e. changing a property of at least one of: the canvas, or the at least one of the

       plurality of components on the canvas (Fig. 2, 3: expanding cell D10); and

   f. maintaining the relationship of the gridline to the element on the canvas (Fig. 2,

       3: when cell D10 is expanded the gridline is moved accordingly.)

Claim 39: <u>Excel</u> discloses the method according to claim 38, wherein the step of

identifying a relationship of the gridline to the element on the canvas is repeated for a

plurality of gridlines and a plurality of elements (Fig. 5.)

Claim 40: <u>Excel</u> discloses the method according to claim 38, further comprising adding

a gridline dynamically (i.e. continuously) to the canvas (Fig. 2: changes in the cells

cause dynamic updating of gridlines.)

Claim 41: <u>Excel</u> discloses the method according to claim 38, further comprising:

overlaying a grid on the canvas (selection of "Gridlines" options overlays a grid, Fig. 7,

on Fig. 6, to appear as Fig. 2), wherein the grid comprises a plurality of gridlines;

identifying a relationship (Fig. 2: position of the gridline to the boundary of the element)

of at least one of the plurality of gridlines to at least one of the plurality of components

on the canvas.

Claim 42: <u>Excel</u> discloses the method according to claim 38, further comprising adding

a component on the grid (Fig. 5: "3+3".)

Claim 43: <u>Excel</u> discloses the method according to claim 38, further comprising: placing the gridline on the canvas according to a predetermined relationship of the gridline to at least one of the plurality of components on the canvas (gridline is placed to outline the cells: Fig. 6, 7, 2.)

Claim 44: <u>Excel</u> discloses the method according to claim 38, further comprising placing the gridline on the canvas (selection of "Gridlines" options overlays a grid, Fig. 7, on Fig. 6, to appear as Fig. 2); identifying a relationship of the gridline to at least one of the plurality of components on the canvas according to the placement of the gridline on the canvas (Fig. 2: position of the gridline to the boundary of the element.)

Claim 45: <u>Excel</u> discloses the method according to claim 38, further comprising adding a component to the canvas; maintaining the relationship of the gridline to the element on the canvas (Fig. 5: "3+3".)

Claim 46: <u>Excel</u> discloses the method according to claim 38, wherein the gridline is defined by a plurality of rows and columns (Fig. 2) that define a plurality of virtual cells (Fig. 2: A1-H25), and at least one of the plurality of components (Fig. 8: "USPTO banner") spans a plurality of the virtual cells (Fig. 8: B14-H16.)

Claim 47: <u>Excel</u> discloses the method of claim 46, further comprising adding a

component to the canvas, wherein the added component inhabits at least one of the

same cells of the plurality of virtual cells inhabited by the at least one of the plurality of

components (Fig. 9.)

Claim 48: <u>Excel</u> discloses the method of claim 38, further comprising determining a

gridline bounding box for the element (Fig. 2: bolded box around "2+2".)

Response to Arguments

3.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 29-48 have been considered but are

moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

4.   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in

this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37

CFR 1.136(a).

        A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later

than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

5.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Andrew Belousov whose telephone number is (571)

270-1695. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (alternate Fri off) EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Steven P. Sax can be reached on (571) 272-4072. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-3800.

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system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AB   /Steven P Sax/
                                                                      Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2174
November 1, 2007